

NEGRO PROVES WORTH IN WAR SERVICE

Not Only Teaches Huns to Respect His Bayonet but Makes Big Sacrifice for Red Cross Work

By Cleveland G. Allen
Negro Editor and Publicist

OFFICIAL reports have held the status of the American negro in France at a high point, from the steady labor of the stevedores at the ports to the courage of the black bayonet users, to which even the Hun has borne unwilling testimony. But little has been told of the war work of the negro at home, though the record is one of which he is and may well be proud. In raising money, in providing the auxiliary organizations that care for the regiments, in camp, community and Red Cross work the American negro has set high marks.

Vigorously Exposed German Agents

The flurry caused by their work has passed. The resentment, always smoldering, against the lynching of negroes has been quieted by the President's proclamation and the way in which it has been received throughout the country. Negro leaders everywhere have been constantly active in warning their people that now, of all times, was not the time to let race feeling get the better of them, and they have carefully and vigorously exposed the German agents and their claims.

Perhaps the most pestiferous of all the German propagandists was a man named Freudenheimer, who worked among the negroes in Harlem. He was reported to the government by negroes, and twenty of them aided by their testimony in the conviction which brought him a twenty-year sentence.

The result of the negro leaders' work shows in the fact that though there have been some 3,600 persons charged with disloyal utterances not one is a negro. Nor was there a negro among the twenty-three who have been charged with writing threatening letters to the President.

The sacrifices the negroes are making today are more pronounced than at any time in his history, and if some of the figures do not look large, let it be remembered that the race is barely half a century from slavery and that his means are slender. The negro believes that he is an integral part of this country, and that his whole future lies here, and that of all the mixed groups in America he should be the last to falter. Moreover, he wishes to prove that he is one of America's most valuable assets; he knows that the country is engaged in a life-and-death struggle, and it is going to measure him by what he does.

Quick to Respond to War Call

When war was declared and the call to the young manhood of the country went out the negro was quick to respond. He did not wait for the draft call. The 15th New York Infantry (now

the 369th) was the first of all the militia regiments to reach Federal strength. Incidentally, it was one of the first militia regiments to go overseas, to get into the trenches and to receive mention in the dispatches.

When the draft law passed the War Department planned to provide negro officers, and an officers' training school for colored officers was established at Des Moines, Iowa. The course was the same as at the other training camps, and at the first commencement over one thousand young negroes, gathered from all sections of the country, were commissioned, and shortly went to work to build the negro draftees into a fighting force. Since then other training camps for colored officers have been held, and to-day there are close to 2,000 negroes wearing shoulder straps.

The draft, of course, brought the full quota of colored boys. To-day there are in the army 157,000 negroes, of whom 26,000 are in regiments which have been reported in action on the Western front. With the entrance of such a large number of colored men into the army the War Department realized that there would arise problems that would require peculiar tact and judgment in the handling. This led to the appointment of a negro in the department whose duty it is to adjust these problems and to advise the Secretary in regard to the peculiar needs of the colored people. This appointment was given to Emmett J. Scott, one of the best known of the younger leaders of the race, who for fifteen years has been connected with Tuskegee Institute as secretary.

The Question of Colored Nurses

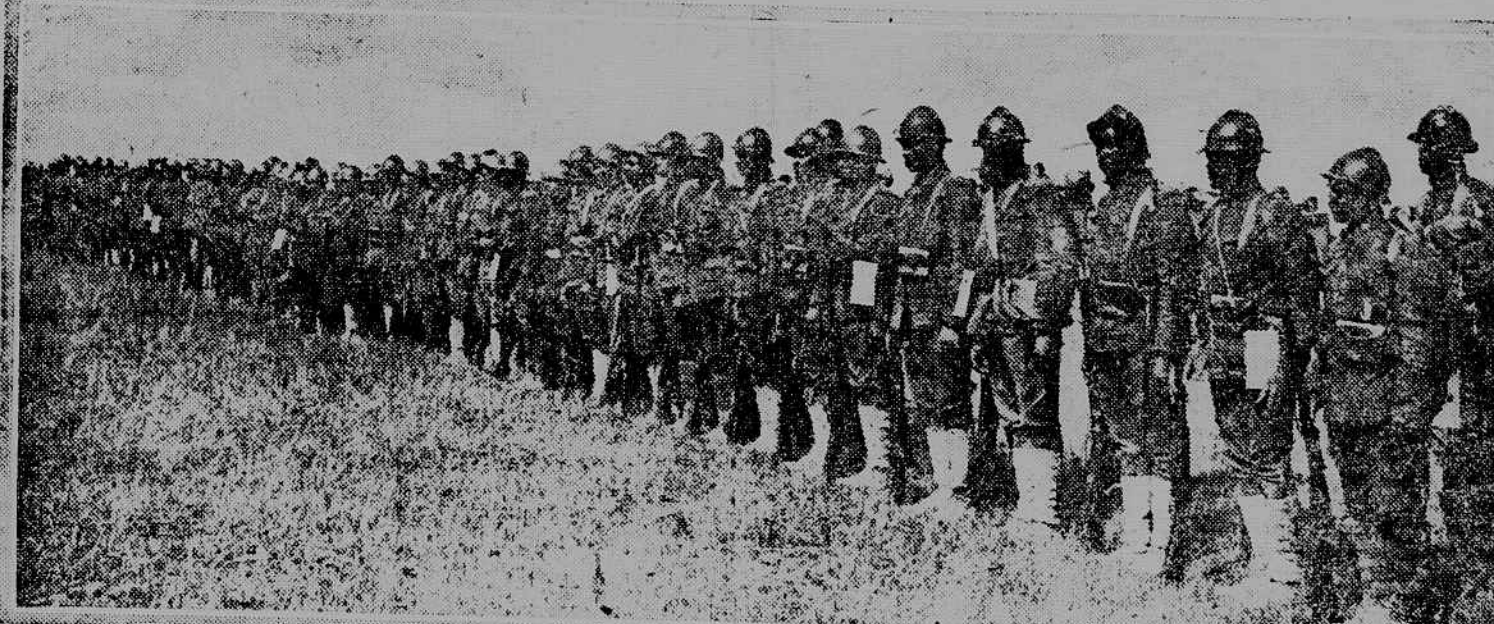
Mr. Scott in addition to his duties in the department has been active in organizing the colored people of the country for war work both at home and abroad. He recently called a conference of the colored leaders and editors in Washington, where for three days the problems of the negro inside and out of the army were thoroughly discussed. This meeting resulted in the beginning of a national movement. The question of using colored nurses in the Red Cross service has also been discussed by Mr. Scott, after months of discussion. They are now being accepted for overseas service with colored troops, many have been enrolled and a few have already gone abroad.

In visiting the cantonments where the colored soldiers are stationed Mr. Scott has made a thorough study of conditions surrounding their moral, spiritual and physical welfare and has recommended many measures making for their improvement.

The spirit that is being shown on the part of the students in the higher institutions for the education of the negro may be seen from a statement made by Private Ernest Pollard, of the Utility Corps at Camp Merritt and for eight years a professor in Howard University, in Washington. Professor Pollard states that there are 400 students of this university in the various armies, and that at least five of its professors are commissioned officers. Lieutenant T. M. Gregory, of that institution, is in the Intelligence Bureau, in Washington.

Dr. Robert R. Moton, who succeeded Booker T. Washington as the principal of the Tuskegee Institute, and one of the foremost of the negro leaders, states that there are 600 students and

PART OF THE MEN WHOSE BAYONETS THE HUN DREADS



alumni of that school who are actively engaged in war, and that the school has been given over to the government for the training of colored men as officers. Dr. Moton has been making addresses throughout the country calling the negroes' attention to the opportunity that is presented to them for service, and urging them to buy bonds and stamps. He has been forming Boy Scout troops among the colored boys of the South to teach them discipline and to keep them in a state of preparedness. He was recently made the chairman of a Red Cross society, with headquarters at Tuskegee.

Wilberforce University, another of the schools for the higher education of the negro and of which Dr. W. S. Scarborough is the president, is also being used as a training school for colored officers.

The negro has been a liberal supporter of all the war financial movements. When Secretary McAdoo made his first trip through the country on the first loan drive the colored people of Little Rock, Ark., presented to him a check for \$50,000 from the Mosaic Templars, a negro fraternal organiza-

tion, of that city. The negroes of Jacksonville, Fla., in one meeting in the third drive subscribed \$250,000, and it is safe to say that the colored people

of New York have subscribed in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000. The colored school children of Public School 89, in West 134th Street, sold

more than \$48,000 of bonds to the negroes of this city. At the recent session of the National Colored Women's Club, which met in Denver, it was announced through its president, Mrs. Mary B. Talbert, of Buffalo, who was the first colored woman to be graduated from Oberlin College, that the colored women of America alone had subscribed \$5,000,000 for Liberty Loan bonds.

The Organization of War Relief

Shortly after the war came the organization of various war relief associations among the negroes. One of the first to be formed was the Women's Auxiliary of the 15th Infantry, to aid relatives and families of the men. It was organized by Miss Elizabeth Farrier, the first colored woman to be appointed a school teacher in this city, and it has been praised by Governor Whitman and Colonel William Heyward of the regiment. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt sent the auxiliary a silk flag in recognition of its services.



Above, Cleveland G. Allen, writer and organizer of patriotic meetings, at left, and James H. Hubert, executive secretary, New York branch of the National League on Conditions Among Negroes. Below, Mrs. Dora Cole Norman, organizer of women's activities; Henry M. Downing, organizer of the Negro Books for Negro Soldiers' Movement, and Mrs. Lelia Walker Robinson, chairman of the latter organization.

Camp Community Auxiliaries Know Loyalty and Shipbuilders Give Him First Prize as Riveter

The Soldiers' Comfort League, another war relief organization, is also rendering service to the colored soldiers.

The first national war relief organization to be formed for the care of the negro soldiers was the Negro Circle for War Relief, organized by Mrs. Emily Bigelow Haggood, who is the only white woman in the organization. The headquarters are at 489 Fifth Avenue, and units have been formed throughout the country. The colored women of the organization living in this city formed an ambulance unit, waged a campaign and secured sufficient funds to purchase an ambulance, which has been turned over to the government. The ambulance is now in France in active service. This unit was formed December 6, 1917, and has twenty members under the leadership of Mrs. Dora Cole Norman, who planned the campaign and was largely responsible for its success.

Another war relief organization among negroes was the Welfare League of the 367th Infantry, of which Charles W. Anderson, ex-collector of the Port, and one of the most prominent colored leaders of the country, was made president. Through the effort of Mr. Anderson this organization has done much for the regiment, which prior to its departure for France was stationed at Camp Upton. Colonel James A. Moss was the colonel of this regiment, and before it sailed for France Mr. Anderson was called to Camp Upton and made an honorary member of the regiment, which distinction is believed the first to be given a private citizen in this country. Another prominent member of the Welfare League of the 367th Infantry is Dr. Gertrude Curtis, who organized a knitting unit of forty members who knitted sweaters and other things for the men of the regiment which were of great help to the men during the winter.

Delving Into Economic Needs

Another prominent negro war worker is John M. Langston, who is the chairman of Local Board 140, which has the largest number of draft registrants in the world. The National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes, with headquarters at 2305 Seventh Avenue, is addressing itself to the economic needs and opportunities that are opening up as the result of the war, and is succeeding in placing colored labor in many of the large plants that had been closed to them prior to the war. This league is also stimulating interest in the Liberty Loan and war thrift campaigns. The director of the local urban league is J. H. Hubert, a young negro who has large experience in social work and who is a graduate of Morehouse College and also of the New York School of Philanthropy.

The morale of the negro soldiers gave much concern to the leaders of the negro race, and one of the matters that struck them as being of grave importance was the matter of proper reading for them. This led to the organization of the Negro Books for Negro Soldiers Movement, with headquarters at 61 Bible House, and was the result of an article written by Henry F. Downing, the manager of the organization, calling attention to the need of the negro soldiers being supplied with books written on negro history by negro writers. The move-

ment has been indorsed by some of the most prominent men and women of both races throughout the country, as well as by the American Library Association.

In Red Cross And War Relief

The chairman of this organization is Mrs. Lelia Walker Robinson, who is one of the wealthiest colored women in America. She has been active in the Red Cross, and made the first contribution to the Negro Circle for War Relief. Other officers are Louis W. George, the Rev. J. W. Hankins, secretary of Foreign Missions of the A. M. E. Church, and William Webb.

The call for men and women to go overseas has been splendidly answered by negro men and women throughout the country. Mrs. Helen M. Curtis, wife of the late J. L. Curtis, Minister of this country to Liberia, and Mrs. A. W. Huntton, two colored women of this city, were among the first to go to France to work among the negro troops. Over two hundred young negroes have gone as Y. M. C. A. workers. Max Yergan was the first of these young colored men to go, and he was assigned to work among the troops in Africa and India.

The colored Red Cross workers have won signal praise. One of the most active was the 319th Chapter of the American Red Cross, with headquarters in the 15th Infantry Armory, and which was the first group of colored workers to become affiliated with the Red Cross. They have a membership of about four hundred, and have sent over 50,000 surgical bandages to headquarters and over 100 sweaters. Six of their members have just completed the three months' course given by the Atlantic Division for instructors, and they were the first colored group to finish this course. Their names are Bernice Austin, Henry Rudd, Virginia Carol, Lucy Cole, Nettie Block and El. Boyle Holman. The colored women have been active in all of the Red Cross drives, and in the recent parade under the direction of that organization 2,000 colored workers marched.

Negro Holds Riveting Record

As the result of the war many new economic openings have been created to assist in the adjustment of the problems that would arise relative to the negro. To meet this situation a negro bureau of economics of the War Department was created, and Dr. George E. Haynes, a negro educator of Fisk University, was placed in charge of it. He is a graduate of Yale University and a post-graduate of Columbia University, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Mrs. Harriett Barrett, a colored woman of Virginia, has been appointed on the Committee of War Camp Communities to make a study of conditions as they relate to the welfare of the negro soldiers near the cantonments. She is the president of the Virginia State Federation of Women's Clubs, and is a graduate of Hampton Institute.

Negroes working in the large shipyards of the country have made fine records, and recently Charles Knight, a young colored man from Maryland, broke the world's riveting record.

CHAPLAIN TELLS WHY WE SHOULD LOATHE THE BOECHE

A letter from George Alexander Griffiths, chaplain with the Fifth Artillery, U. S. A.

5th Field Artillery, A. E. F., France.
MY Dear Friend: So many times have I intended writing you and always something turns up to prevent it, but this afternoon the weather is so bad, and other things, which I cannot mention, make it impossible for me to be outside much—so I shall do my best before there are interruptions. You may remember that in the end I left America without any notice at the last—just a few hours to finish in a wild scramble my preparations and my equipment. We had a long, tiresome journey of over two weeks—and full of excitement—before we landed. It was early in January, and when we landed we were cold and tired, and I think we have been cold ever since—for I am still looking for the traditional balmy sunshine of France. It must be a will of the wisp, for in the last three months I have been all over the country and so far have not come up with it. It has been my good fortune to be moved about a bit, and during my journey have seen much of all that is interesting over here.

For a time I was located in the great American seaport of which you read so much in the papers in America. There are really wonderful things going on there—and the gigantic scale on which things have been and are being done amazes me, and surely would dishearten the Boche could he see it. One of

the Boche prisoners who was working about there said he thought Boche land would be quite discouraged if it saw America's preparation at this point. You see a good many Boche prisoners at different points over France clothed in their grass green coats with a white P. G. stamped on the back. It always makes me want to add an I—except that it would be an insult to the race of pigs.

Helping Out With Song and Sermon

For a time I was stationed in one of the reception camps, and there I saw all kinds of troops and outfits as they came in or went out. It was a busy time, with much work to do. My own regiment had a number of professional entertainers, some of whom had been on the Keith circuit, and these I organized on the way over and for a month or more we furnished a large part of the entertainment for the Y. M. C. A. in that camp. We had an early celebration of the holy communion at 7 a. m.—always splendidly attended—the Litany and intercession at 10:30, with a good crowd, and at 8 p. m. I preached—and always at least 1,500 men crowded into all corners of the hut.

Then we moved to another part of the country, to more or less of a permanent place. Here we lived in tents, and froze at night and thawed out enough by the middle of the day to move about. I can remember of being warm only once or

twice since I left America—only the early part of last week we had a heavy snowstorm. So far my work has been with the Q. M. C., which is usually somewhat out of the action over here and unlike the young men who exercise their military office on swivel chairs in and about Washington. But a splendid lot of officers and men are in the Q. M. C. over here, and the majority of them in my regiment longed to be at the front and in the centre of things—and a finer lot of men could not be found anywhere. But it is hard to get so near and yet so far, so you can imagine my joy when I was suddenly transferred to this wonderful outfit of the regulars—a post that is as fine as anything over here, and to my mind the very best.

The 5th Artillery is our oldest military organization, Battery D of the outfit having once been commanded by Alexander Hamilton, and it was from one of the guns of this battery that the first shot of America was sent over to the vile Boche in this war. Consequently, I am proud—not too much so, I hope—to be the chaplain of such a regiment, and I think I am the happiest American in France.

France Still Has Spirit of Victory

My trips over France and several visits into Paris gave me a good chance to see things at first hand, and the evidences of the war are apparent everywhere. France is "triste," as they say, but France can never be beaten—I am sure of that now. The spirit that

clarifies France to-day is so absolutely overwhelming in its power and rests so strongly on the things that do not die that Boche efficiency may seem to prevail again and again—but Boche efficiency is only Boche villainess in action and in the end must succumb. We can learn so much from France and her attitude toward the Boche. One hears almost no outward expression of their hatred for the Boche—I fancy they think to talk about it is to waste energy which could be better employed elsewhere. But it is here, and so deep-seated that it is behind everything they do.

Proof of Boche Mutilation

All that you have heard in America about them does not approximate the truth. There are little children right here in France with their little stumps of hands—there were some not far from my last camp—and young men with all the fingers of their right hand cut off. The other day a British officer and three Tommies told me that a short time ago they went as an advance party into a little village from which the Boches had been driven back and in a large room there were four young Canadians crucified, one on each wall of the room. Also, when I was with the British they told me they (the Boches) had been taking young Belgian and French girls into their front line trenches and torturing them until their screams made the Scotch and the Canadians so crazed they would go over into the machine gun nests which the Boches had set up—using the women's screams as a decoy.

And I have it on the word of a British officer that they have stood (the officers) with guns levelled at their men to keep them from going over and being needlessly slaugh-

tered when the women screamed, and I cannot tell you what the soldiers told me they found when they drove the hell-hounds out of one of these positions; it is too awful even to think about it. I also have it on the word of one of the greatest French abbés that the Boches were especially instructed to destroy convents and kill or outrage the nuns, and he says that all through France and Belgium are ruined convents and that the nuns were given to the soldiers to be outraged in the camps.

These are not isolated cases nor abnormal conditions which prevailed here and there where troops were drunk or without any moral restraint. Go along the French and British front and the only conclusion you arrive at is that they are just the ground principle of Boche efficiency in action. I don't believe there is one of us here who would not be glad to be at home, but there is not one of us here, I believe, who does not want to see Boche land devastated from one end to the other, with Berlin a blackened ruin—with the Boche exterminated, militarists and all, before we come home.

If the Civilians Only Hold Out

There is a French postcard which shows two tired, weary poilus standing knee deep in the mud of the trenches. One says, "If they only hold out." The other says, "Who?" He answers, "The civilians." And it expresses exactly the feeling one gets when we read the papers from home and read of lengthy trials for the pro-Boche, of suspects being in-

terned, of debates in the Senate as to whether a pro-Boche society shall have its charter withdrawn. What does America mean by it?

Where is the blood in America? God help us if this pussy-footing goes on! Why doesn't America kill as the Boche has killed? Go over to the first line hospital where I just have been and see what I have seen—a great big boy all torn and disfigured by a Boche shell—and I help him, guiding his hand as he writes a goodbye to his sweetheart; and he, blind you, he tells her that God will bring them together again. Or again, a young American, only twenty-one, his side and arm all shot away, getting me to write to his mother, and almost the last thing he can say is, "Chaplain, she won't suffer; she'll be taken care of, because I took out my full insurance." Or hold the head of a young ambulance driver, only nineteen, and he sobs out his life, crying for his mother as you and I cried for ours when we were lonely—and then talk about terms with the Boche—never, until we have taken an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

It is American blood that is flowing now, and God grant it may give America some strength to realize what we are up against. To talk of terms until the Boche is exterminated is to league with Satan for a corner in hell.

Privations, sacrifices? What can you do at home to compare with what these men or ours are doing over here—meatless days, wheelless days, sugarless days, goot women knitting, benefits for the Red Cross, or all your social diversions with a

charitable object sandwiched in? But you are home, you are warm, you are with your friends—but here, no one you have ever seen before, all strangers, the damned Boche trying to get the hospital and the bed on which lies what they have left. And they are all young—that's the wrench—and they are going out while the thing hangs in the balance.

And so the honor of the American soldier over here will be for us who have seen him fight, and go out, the most glorious memory of our whole experience. Do let us all try to live up to it, for over here it overwhelms you by showing up your own cheapness and unworthiness. Loathe the Boche; preach against him, work against him wherever he is, ostracize him socially and commercially. Take no chances, even though his reputation for loyalty has been a long-standing one. The leopard cannot change his spots, neither can the Boche demon lose his horns. I'm begging you now, as the Boches are trying to murder us, to help wake up any one up to the fact that America must realize what the world is facing over here. Can't you see it? Can't America see it? How everything is hanging in the balance—and I know the weight which shall cast it down is when your loathing for the Boche will so burn in you as to make you count nothing, consider nothing but his extermination. I am so happy, oh, so happy to be here in this great hour, and I thank God that He has given me the right feeling toward the Boche and I pray that every one in America will share it before long.